

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A central control system for controlling multiple air conditioners, comprising:

5 the multiple air conditioners configured by a plurality of indoor devices and an outdoor device;

a central controller connected to the multiple air conditioners through a dedicated line based on an air conditioner communication protocol for receiving a control
10 command to control the multiple air conditioners in a central control manner, the central controller being connected to an external Internet network based on an Ethernet communication protocol to receive a control command such that the multiple air conditioners can be remotely controlled; and

15 a protocol converter for carrying out a communication protocol conversion for a signal such that the control command inputted at a remote site can be transmitted to the multiple air conditioners through the Internet network.

20 2. The central control system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the central controller comprises:

a key input unit for receiving a control command associated with the multiple air conditioners; and

25 an output unit for externally outputting control states of the multiple air conditioners operated according to the

control command.

3. The central control system as set forth in claim 1,
wherein the central controller comprises:

5 a control program driver for driving a control program
implemented by a GUI (Graphic User Interface) to control the
multiple air conditioners.

10 4. The central control system as set forth in claim 3,
wherein the central controller comprises:

15 a control program transmitter for transmitting the
control program such that the control program can be
downloaded through an Internet browser of a remote controller
in response to a remote control request from the remote
controller receiving the control command associated with the
multiple air conditioners through the Internet network.

5. The central control system as set forth in claim 1,
wherein the central controller comprises:

20 a signal storage unit for storing the control command
inputted through the Internet network at a remote site;

 an Internet data storage unit for storing data
associated with an Internet connection port and IP address
data; and

25 a controller for controlling a flow of signals

transmitted and received through the Internet network and controlling the protocol converter to control a communication protocol conversion for a signal.

5 6. The central control system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the protocol converter is configured such that the protocol converter is connected to the central controller through a serial port of the central controller by a cable.

10 7. A method for operating a central control system for multiple air conditioners, comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting a control command inputted from a remote controller capable of accessing an Internet network to the multiple air conditioners installed indoors;

15 (b) after the control command is converted into a control command based on an air conditioner communication protocol, transmitting the control command based on the air conditioner communication protocol to the multiple air conditioners; and

20 (c) allowing the multiple air conditioners to perform a control operation in response to the control command based on the air conditioner communication protocol and to transmit data of control states to the remote controller.

25 8. The method as set forth in claim 7, wherein the step

(c) further comprises the step of:

converting the control state data into control state data based on an Ethernet communication protocol.